

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0372

S E C R E T KINSHASA 9244

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, CG

SUBJECT: MILITARY ASSISTANCE FOR ZAIRE

ZAMISH 059, 041030Z NOV 76

1. REFTEL REPORTS SUMMARY OF ZAMISH BRIEFING PROVIDED STAFFDEL COLLINS, WHO HAS JUST LEFT. COLLINS ALSO RAISED WITH AMBASSADOR NUMBER OF QUESTIONS RE OUR MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. AMBASSADOR SUPPLEMENTED ZAMISH BRIEFING BY REVIEWING HISTORY AND PRESENT STATUS OF PROGRAM, REFERRING IN GENERAL TERMS TO TWO ROCKWELL MISSIONS IN CONTEXT OF ONGOING US-GOZ CONSULTATIONS. MISSION DID NOT, HOWEVER, SATISFY COLLINS, DESIRE TO KNOW JUST HOW PROPOSED \$30 MILLION FIGURE FOR FY77 WAS REACHED AND HOW IT RELATES TO ASSISTANCE LEVELS PLANNED FOR SUBSEQUENT YEARS, PRIMARILY BECAUSE WE OURSELVES ARE NOT SURE WHERE THE FY77 PACKAGE STANDS AT THIS MOMENT.

2. BEGINNING NOVEMBER 10 WITH STAFFDEL POWERS, WE WILL RECEIVE THREE OTHER CONGRESSIONAL VISITS DURING NOVEMBER, EACH OF WHOM HAS REQUESTED BRIEFING ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND ON SALES POLICY. IT IS CLEAR THAT WE NEED GUIDELINES FROM WASHINGTON ON WHAT WE CAN SAY TO THESE VISITORS.

3. IN ADDITION, WE NEED UPDATED INFORMATION ON THE STATUS OF THE \$30 MILLION FOR FY77 SINCE MOBUTU RETURNS NOVEMBER 11

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AND WILL PROBABLY EXPECT ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- (A) IS THE \$30 MILLION SOLID?
- (B) WHEN DO WE SIGN THE LOAN AGREEMENT?
- (C) WHAT MILITARY EQUIPMENT WILL BE OFFERED WITHIN THE
\$38 MILLION FIGURE (INCLUDING FY77)?
- (D) WHEN CAN ZAIRE EXPECT DELIVERIES THEREOF?

4. FINALLY, MOBUTU WILL WANT TO KNOW WHETHER ZAIRE CAN
ANTICIPATE ANY ASSISTANCE BEYOND THE \$30 MILLION IN FY77, AND
WHEN WE PLAN TO HOLD NEXT CONSULTATIONS WITH GOZ.

5. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST.
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